

ORIGINAL TRANSLATION

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Seat back, particularly rear seat back

The invention relates to a seat back, particularly a rear seat back based on the overall concept of Patent Claim 1.

A known seat back of this type (DE 196 45 685 C2) is formed as a foldable rear of a front seat. The headrest is also foldable, and is affixed to the seat back so that its height is not adjustable.

There is the problem with adjustable headrests that the seat user often adjusts the headrest too low. This has the result that the headrest does not function in the planned and desired manner during a crash. A headrest setting that is too low is often found on seat backs. A seat back headrest setting that is too low allows the driver a better rearward view.

It may also be that the seat back headrests are adjusted too low because the seat back will not fold forward (providing expanded luggage space) without hitting the back of the front seat back unless the headrest is in its lowest position. There exists the particular hazard with seat backs that the rear seat is used with a headrest that is set too low.

Starting from this state of the art, it is the task of this invention to equip a seat back of the conventional type with a height-adjustable headrest in which the maintenance of a minimum height is ensured, but when the headrest is below the minimum height, the seat is practically not useable.

The solution to this task is based on the characteristics of Patent Claim 1.

The seat back based on the invention namely allows the headrest to be stored in a low position, which is useful because this allows better rearward visibility when the seat is not occupied or folded forward, but it is ensured that the seat is not useable if the headrest is set below the minimum height.

Advantageous embodiments of the invention may be taken from the Dependent Claims.

In the following, an advantageous embodiment example of the invention are described in detail using illustrations, which show:

- Figure 1 lateral view of the upper area of a seat back with a headrest with conventional height adjustment,
- Figure 2 the view per Figure [2] with a headrest in a lower useable position,
- Figure 3 the view per Figures 1 and 2 upon achievement of a lower release position at which the headrest folds forward,
- Figure 4 the view as in Figure 3 with headrest folded forward,
- Figure 5 the view as in Figure 4 with lowered headrest folded forward.

The upper area of a seat back 1 is shown with a mount 4 and an attached headrest 2 that may tilt. The head 10 of a user is also shown.

The mount 4 is height-adjustable, and may, for example, include two rods positioned parallel to each other in a conventional manner that are fed through bushings positioned in the seat back 1.

The mount 4 supports the headrest 2 in such a manner that it may be tilted about a horizontal swivel axis 3. An engaging element designated with 7 is positioned on the top of the mount 4 that includes an engagement recess 7a and a stop 7b. A spring 5 formed as a leg spring is mounted concentric with the tilt axis, and one leg rests on the mount and the other presses it against a loading spring 5a, e.g., a bushing affixed to the headrest 2.

An adjustment lever 6 is mounted on the headrest 2 on a swivel axis 8. The adjustment lever 6 is an angled lever, and possesses a first area 6a on its upper end and a second area 6b on its lower end. The lever 6 is affixed by a spring in the form of a tension spring 9 so that its first area 6a is held in the engagement recess 7a as long as the mount 4 has adequate height for use. When the mount 4 is lowered to the point that the second area 6b of the adjustment lever 6 reaches a contact area 11 that is affixed to the seat back, the adjustment lever 6 is so swiveled counter-clockwise that its first area 6a [extends]¹ out of the engagement recess 7a. As soon as the engagement between headrest and mount that exists in use position because of the [extension] of the area 6a out from the engagement recess 7a is released, the spring 5 swivels the headrest 2 in clockwise direction until it reaches the position visible in Figure 4. In this strike position, the first area 6a rests against the stop 7b of the engagement element 7 connected firmly to the mount 4. With the headrest 2 swiveled forward in this position, the end of the headrest 2 formerly resting below extends so far forward that the head 10 of a user must maintain a considerable distance from the seat back. Such a great distance to the resting surface 1a of the seat back 1 makes use of the seat back practically impossible.

It is visible from Figure 5 that, after being folded forward with respect to the position in Figure 4, the headrest 2 may be lowered further. This further lowered position leads to an

¹ Translator's Note: Cannot find the verb "austauschen."

- even better rearward view, and allows the seat back to be swiveled into an almost vertical position even when the front set is positioned to the rear.

- In order to attain the initial position, the headrest 2 is pulled up manually and swiveled in the counter-clockwise direction until the first area 6a has again dropped into the engagement recess 7a because of the action of the spring 9.
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